for legal assistance for the poor to the States. The Corporation itself provides no legal services to the poor, but rather grants Federal money to local organizations that give legal assistance to the poor. This is a function the States can perform at least as effectively as the Corporation has.

I also opposed an amendment which was sponsored by Senators KOHL and COHEN which took $80 million from funding for the FBI to combat violent crime and terrorism and put it into $30 million for local block grants for various social programs such as boys and girls club, more palatably dubbed by the sponsors of such measures crime prevention programs, $30 million for additional grants made by the Office of Justice Assistance, and $20 million for additional grants for ''Weed and Seed'' programs.

The initiatives the sponsors sought to fund may well be worthy. In my judgment, however, many of them have no proven record of helping with the fight against crime, the purpose for which Federal crime money should be reserved. To be sure, the sponsors designated between 2 and 3 percent of the money for evaluation of these programs. But in the first place it is unlikely that serious evaluation can be performed with that budget; and in the second place, in my view, we should evaluate the programs before giving them additional funding.●

GOVERNMENT THAT WORKS

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, there has been much talk recently about how our Government is no longer able to solve society's problems, how it is unresponsive to citizens' needs, how people feel they do not have a say in how their country is run, and how it seems that when the Government makes decisions that affect industry, it does not seek their input beforehand. Well, I would like to share with my Senate colleagues a story that should help give a different perception.

It is a story about a mother who suffered a terrible tragedy and through it, summoned the strength and courage to help solve a serious problem across the country. The story is about Thelma Sibley, a woman from Milan, MI, who experienced the worst nightmare of any parent—the death of her child Nancy. Nancy Sibley died from a hidden hazard that no parent could be expected to anticipate. Nancy Sibley was strangled to death by the drawstring of her winter coat when the drawstring caught on a playground slide.

After her child's death, Thelma Sibley became dedicated to ensuring that no other parent would have to relive her experience. Thelma Sibley looked to the Government for help and answers. As it happened, Ann Brown had recently been appointed Chairman of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. Chairman Brown was well aware of the danger drawstrings presented and reached out to Thelma for help in solving this problem. Working together, Thelma Sibley and Ann Brown were able to bring together representatives from the Nation's 33 leading manufacturers of children's clothing. When these industry officials were presented with the evidence of what these drawstrings were capable of doing, there was no hesitation in their decision to remove drawstrings from virtually all of the 20 million kid's garments manufactured annually in this country.

It is indeed a remarkable story. I commend Thelma Sibley for her courage, and CPSC Chairman Ann Brown for bringing a human face to Government by reaching out personally to Thelma Sibley and working voluntarily with industry to solve this problem. I ask that the text of a Los Angeles Times article detailing this story be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

A POWERFUL PAIR

(By Elizabeth Mehren)

BETHESDA, Md.—This could be the story of the bureaucrat and the bereaved mother. Except that neither Ann Brown nor Thelma Sibley comes close to either stereotype.

Brown is a mother of two, grandmother of three and full-time advocate for children. As vice president of the Consumer Federation of America, she was such a thorn in the side of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission that many staffers feared her name. Imagine their reaction in March, 1994, when President Clinton named her to head the agency she so relentlessly watchdogged.

Sibley and her husband, Bob, live on a small farm in Michigan, where for 20 years she has worked as a color and soft-trim designer in the automotive industry. At 46, Sibley is a devout Baptist and projects the kind of calm that bespeaks solid, sensible values. She is probably one of a handful of Americans who refer to Hillary Rodham Clinton as ''the First Mom.''

On Jan. 4, 1994, Sibley's 5-year-old daughter, Nancy, was killed when the drawstring on her winter coat snagged on a spiral slide at her school playground and strangled her. The paths of Brown and Sibley were tied together by that drawstring. Both women see the friendship and collaboration that has blossomed between them as something organic, something vital and something that was probably preordained.

In her office here on the outskirts of Washington, Brown explained, ''Were both strong women, determined women and women of faith. We're also both extremely pragmatic.''

With a perfect poker face, Sibley—a full head taller and 12 years younger than the small, compact Brown—remarked, ''We're twins. But we were separated at birth.''

In Sibley's case, ridding the children's clothing world of the slender string that claimed Nancy's life became a crusade. She remembers all too well how after Nancy's death, her own words—the words of so many parents whose children succumb to tragically preventable accidents—kept pounding in her ears: ''If I'd only known.''

If she'd only known, she would never have bought a coat with a drawstring. If she'd only known, she would have ripped out the drawstrings on every item in Nancy's wardrobe. Never mind that it was January in Michigan—if she'd only known, she wouldn't have bundled Nancy into a hood that closed tight with a string.

After the death of a child, two extreme reactions are common. In one scenario, mothers and fathers descend into a paralyzing miasma. Even the most ordinary of daily activities drains them. Conversely, some parents spin into a maelstrom of action. Psychologists call the latter response agitated depression.

That description captures the flurry of energy Thelma Sibley experienced after Nancy died. For a full seven months, her grief manifested itself kinetically. She ran on high speed but felt nothing. ''I believe God put me in a numb chamber because he knew I had a job to get done,'' Sibley said.

The job began when, reviewing a report to the school board of Ann Arbor, where Nancy's accident occurred, Sibley came across the name of the Consumer Production Safety Commission. ''I had never heard of the agency before that,'' She said.

While it made sense to Sibley that the school board and possibly her own state might investigate Nancy's death, she had no such expectations from the federal government. She viewed Washington as remote and alien, too tied up with politics to care much about people. ''I was very surprised there actually was a federal agency, and that they were actually going to do a report,'' Sibley said.

She was also stunned to discover that drawstrings had been removed from children's clothing in Great Britain in 1976. In the same report she learned that the Canadian province of Ontario, just across the border from Michigan, had taken similar action in 1988, following the drawstring strangulations of five children. Her research also revealed that Nancy was one of a dozen American children to succumb to drawstrings since 1985. The strings were associated with an additional 27 nonfatal accidents.

''I thought, wait a minute, I live in Ann Arbor, Mich. We're not talking Upper Yukon here. How come I didn't know this?'' Sibley said.

Sibley did what she always does in crisis. She prayed. The next thing she knew, she was writing to ''the First Mom.'' She and her husband were not blaming anyone for their daughters death, Sibley wrote, but rather were seeking the voluntary removal of accessories on children's clothing that might cause harm. Since Nancy's accident occurred on an old, outdated slide that was subsequently dismantled, the Sibley's also wanted their child's death to help raise awareness about playground safety.

The White House wasted no time in forwarding Sibley's entreaty to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the same agency to which Sibley was referred when she contacted the Consumer's Union and Public Citizen, Ralph Nader's organization. This is where the tale takes on a Twilight Zone quality not normally found in stories concerning the federal government, for Brown, newly installed as chairwoman of the agency she once loved to hate, had already taken steps both to ban drawstrings from kids' clothes and to contact Thelma Sibley.

''There was a confluence,'' Brown said. ''Both of us are convinced it was meant to be.''

In Michigan, the inquiry into Nancy Sibley's death made headlines in April, 1994, three months after the death and just weeks after Brown began her government job. Although it was a Sunday when Brown came across the Sibley file, she instantly picked up the phone and called Nancy's parents.

As Brown knew from decades of activism, personal contact with parents is often a first step toward enlisting them as catalysts of change. Nearly 30 years ago, Brown took up her mission when her daughter Laura, then 2, began chewing on what looked like a piece of cherry candy—but turned out to be a potentially poisonous paint pellet. Brown and

Sibley were soon brainstorming—and later, barnstorming.

By then Brown was well aware of the hazards that drawstrings posed for children. She knew about the steps taken in Britain and thought American children were ''just as valuable as British children.'' In addition, Brown said, ''There was already an existing memo about drawstrings, right here, but nothing had been done.''

She also understood the perils of bureaucratic blockage. Legislating compliance was an invitation to inaction, Brown maintained. In a congressional setting, a children's issue was likely to be marginalized, watered-down and tacked on to some unrelated measure, she thought.

So Sibley and Brown called upon a secret weapon known by parents to be fearsome, and usually foolproof. ''Peer pressure,'' Sibley said, nodding knowingly. Brown called a manufacturers' summit conference. No pressure, she said to representatives of the 33 leading makers of kids' clothes who came to her office soon after she brought Sibley onto her team. No threats, Sibley added: ''no lawyers bugging them.''

With no opposition, drawstrings were quietly removed from virtually all of the 20 million children's garments manufactured annually in this country. The low-key, collaborative approach avoided legislative logjams and eliminated any sense of government coercion.

A quick tour of kids' or discount stores shows that where one year ago there were drawstrings, now there is Velcro, elastic or safety flaps to secure a hood or hat.

Compliance was basically a ''nobrainer,'' said Deborah Siegel, general counsel for Baby Guess/Guess Kids in Los Angeles. ''I'm not sure how many companies were aware of what had happened [to Nancy Sibley and other children],'' she said. But once the problem was pointed out by Brown and Sibley, ''it was fairly simple'' to make the necessary design changes.

Sibley and Brown agree that the move toward safer childern's clothing was a fitting memorial for Nancy. But it was by no means the end of their teamwork—nor, they hope, their triumphs. Sibley has channeled her determination into a push to improve playground safety.

She and Brown have taped several video spots showing how parents can monitor classroom and playground equipment that may have been produced or installed before current standards were enforced. Much of this equipment is poorly maintained, and a great deal of it is too high off the ground. In many areas, children still tumble onto hard concrete rather than softer wood chips. Tattered old swings can collapse if a child pushes the sky.

In the course of working together, Sibley and Brown have developed a remarkable relationship. They are girlfriends, and both know this form of friendship to be as mighty as any corporate conglomeration. When Sibley is in Washington, she stays at Brown's house. They work a full day together, then go home and throw on their bathrobes. Over a glass of wine, they settle the problems of the planet while Brown's husband fixes dinner.

''I want you to understand,'' Brown said, ''I do not invite every-one I work with at this agency to come and stay at my house.''

But here's where the girlfriend connection tugs hard, and where the link of motherhood builds fierce bonds. Ann Brown never met Nancy Sibley. But she knows that the brown-eyed girl Bob and Thelma Sibley adopted in infancy was a long-awaited gift. She has heard how Thelma Sibley did the vacuuming with Nancy in a backpack. She knows how much the Sibleys miss Nancy's zeal, her passion and her empathy for people. She instinctively reaches over and clutches Sibley's hand as Sibley recalls how Nancy used to brag that she looked just like Mommy. At this disclosure, both women's eyes cloud up.

In the pyramid of Washington, Brown's agency is nobody's idea of a powerhouse. The Consumer Product Safety Commission narrowly escaped extermination in recent cutbacks, and its current budget remains close to what it was more than a decade ago. Until Brown took over, the commission was widely viewed as moribund.

''Wrong,'' Sibley corrected. ''Dead.''

But Brown and Sibley feel certain that a heavenly cheerleader is breathing life into their efforts. Their work is not just in Nancy's memory, Sibley said, ''it's in her honor.''

Parents who have not lost children often nod approvingly when mothers like Sibley take up a cause. *Catharsis* is a word you often hear. But parents of dead children know that true catharsis is elusive, if it is attainable at all. The hole in your heart is there forever. Still, said Sibley, who has kept her day job in the auto industry while pursuing her unpaid work with Brown, ''You don't cling to 'if only I'd known' ''forever.

''That's fine for a few months,' Sibley said. ''But for me, that's not inner healing. Inner healing is doing something.''

TOP TEN GIVEAWAYS IN SENATE REPUBLICAN BUDGET BILL

● Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, from the home office in Beebe Plain, VT, I bring you the top 10 giveaways in the Republican budget bill.

10. ''What's white and black all over? A polar bear in an Arctic oil field.'' The bill opens the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas drilling.

9. ''You don't go to jail for this?'' The bill would permit companies to withdraw excess assets from their pension plans.

8. ''One more write-off for the road.'' The bill would allow convenience stores with a gas pump to depreciate their property over 15 years instead of the less generous 39-year period available for other convenience stores.

7. ''And you thought baseball owners were greedy.'' The bill would allow the American College Football Coaches Association to avoid tax penalties and stop an IRS challenge of its pension plan.

6. ''The oil is on the House.'' The bill eliminates the 12.5-percent royalty oil companies used to pay to drill for deepwater oil.

5. ''You can keep the gems—but we're charging you for the dirt.'' In exchange for taking $2 to $3 billion of minerals each year from public lands, mining corporations return a measly $18 million to taxpayers under this bill.

4. ''This should keep' em down on the farm.'' The bill would lift the current $75,000 cap on profits per farmer under Department of Agriculture marketing loan programs so the sky is the limit for wealthy farmers.

3. ''Oh, I thought nurses came with the nursing home.'' The bill repeals national requirements for nursing homes to provide proper health standards—a loophole that will be seized by some to lower the quality of care and life for grandparents and parents.

2. ''Say Aaaah.'' The bill repeals patient protection against excessive doctors' bills, allowing doctors to go after seniors for charges not reimbursed by Medicare.

1. ''Rich guys finish first.'' The bill would give the top one percent of wealthy Americans an average tax break of $5,600 per year while raising taxes on 51 percent of American families —those who earn less than $30,000 a year.●

HONORING THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

● Mr. BRADLEY. Mr. President, as Plato stated in his Republic, any society which would be strong and healthy, must ensure that every citizen finds an occupation which best suits his or her individual talents. Such a philosophy resonates through the halls of our Nation's vocational schools, and today I rise to honor the oldest vocational school in the country, the Middlesex County Vocational and Technical High School of New Brunswick, NJ.

In the United States, vocational schools play a vital role in maintaining a balance in occupations that are needed to make our society tick and our economy hum. Vocational schools recognize the fact that young adults have talents that lie in a wide range of areas. A natural bent toward mechanics or carpentry which might be left untapped in the normal high school environment, is brought to light, cultivated and celebrated in a vocational high school.

Therefore, it gives me great pleasure to recognize the Middlesex County Vocational and Technical High School, the Nation's oldest such institution. In 1913, the New Jersey State Legislature of Public Law passed chapter 294, providing for the establishment of county vocational schools. A year later, H. Brewster Willis approved a plan to create a vocational school system in Middlesex County. Soon after, schools were set up in New Brunswick, Perth Amboy and Jamesburg which taught such skills as mechanical drawing, carpentry, printing, cooking, dressmaking and agriculture.

Enrollment increased steadily over the years, and the influx of talented students spurred the board of education to create new schools and to expand existing ones. New courses were added and different age groups included as the program began to grow and realize its full potential. In 1949, the State board of education approved the establishment of the Middlesex County Adult Technical School for the purpose of providing full-time pre-employment training for adults in skilled trades and technical occupations. Today, the Middlesex County Vocational and Technical Schools remain a thriving and essential part of New Jersey's economic community. Therefore, I am pleased today to have the opportunity to honor the Middlesex County Vocational and